

Remarks

Claims 1, 4-6, 8-12, 14, 15, 18-20, 30, 31, 34, and 51-66 were pending in the subject application. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC §102 and the rejections under 35 USC §103 over Nie *et al.* and Kotov *et al.* Applicants also gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 54-66 are allowable. By this Amendment, claim 52 has been amended and claims 1, 4-6, 8-12, 14, 15, 18-20, 30, 31, 34, and 51 have been cancelled. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments presented herein are directed to allowable subject matter as indicated by the Examiner and, therefore, will not require any further examination or search on the part of the Examiner. Entry and consideration of the amendments presented herein is respectfully requested. Accordingly, claims 52-66 are currently before the Examiner for consideration. Favorable consideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, and 51-53 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over Yang *et al.* (2003) in view of Weiss *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,990,479). In addition, claims 1, 4-6, 8, 9, 11, 12, and 51-53 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over Yang *et al.* (2003) in view of Weiss *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,990,479) and further in view of Prober *et al.* (U.S. Published Application No. 2005/0019842). Claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, and 51-53 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over Yang *et al.* (2003) in view of Weiss *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,990,479) and further in view of Swarovski *et al.* (U.S. Published Application No. 2008/0039816).

Applicants respectfully maintain that the cited references, taken alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the claimed invention. However, in order to expedite prosecution of the subject application to allowance, Applicants have, by this Amendment, cancelled claims 1, 4-6, 8-12, 14, 15, 18-20, 30, 31, 34, and 51 and have amended claim 52 to delete the subject matter corresponding to claim 1 (wherein claim 52 only retains the subject matter corresponding to claim 54, which the Examiner has indicated as allowable in the instant Office Action). Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that only the allowable claims 54-66 (and claims 52 and 53, as amended) remain in the subject application. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 USC §103(a) is respectfully requested.

It should be understood that the amendments presented herein have been made solely to expedite prosecution of the subject application to completion and should not be construed as an indication of Applicants' agreement with or acquiescence in the Examiner's position.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments to the claims, Applicants believe that the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 CFR §§1.16 or 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account 19-0065.

Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any of this response, or if the Examiner believes a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,



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